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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SCHOLES RETIRES FROM EIU

CHARLESTON -- Maintaining an inventory of 2,000 pieces of instructional equipment and ensuring that those pieces of equipment are delivered to the right classroom at the right time for Eastern Illinois University's more than 600 faculty can be a daunting task.

Filling those big shoes for the past 30 years has been recently retired Media Services' Director Gene Scholes and his staff of seven full-time professionals and graduate assistants. Without their support services, teaching and other activities at the university would come to a standstill.

VCR's, televisions, slide and computer projectors, and projection screens are just a few of the items in Media Services' equipment inventory that enable faculty to teach effectively and staff to produce appealing presentations. Many university events, such as commencement, Board of Trustees' meetings, camps and conferences, concerts and lectures could not operate without the public address systems provided by Media Services.

The scope of Media Services extends well beyond this, Scholes said, from providing in-house production of instructional materials, developing instructional software and World Wide

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classroom Web pages for instruction, to consulting with faculty on the latest presentation equipment used in instruction and assisting faculty and staff with photography and graphics.

Although much of Media Services' work is behind-the-scenes, Scholes became a familiar face on the Eastern campus, first arriving here in 1966 as coordinator of Campus Services (part of the Audio Visual Center), supplying and distributing audio visual equipment to faculty and classrooms.

A two-year leave of absence in 1969 enabled him to pursue a doctoral degree at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and earn his Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction in 1972. He returned to Eastern as Campus Services' director under Verne Stockman and assumed the directorship when Stockman retired. In addition to serving as director of the Audio Visual Center,, Scholes was chair of the Department of Instructional Media for the College of Education from 1972 to 1976 and was a subject bibliographer for the College of Education from 1983 to 1990.

"Eastern has been a uniquely good place to work," said Scholes. "I've worked six places in my professional career, and I've obviously enjoyed higher education. I've been blessed with exceptionally good people with whom I've worked."

There have been many changes during the three decades Scholes was at Eastern -- most of them being good, he said. "Eastern's academic program is stronger than ever, and our faculty are as well or better qualified than in the past. Overall, the university has strengthened over time," said Scholes, who has seen the university evolve under five of seven presidents and grow

from a handful of faculty to more than 600. "The campus was much smaller when I first came here, and there was a greater sense of collegiality. Faculty were a closer knit group then, " recalled Scholes, whose fondest memories are of President Quincy Doudna and his close association with the campus community.

"President Doudna prided himself in knowing almost everybody on campus. The campus has grown to the extent that this is not possible today. He also led the university with absolute authority and control," noted Scholes.

Scholes' educational career has spanned 40 years, beginning in the field as a high school teacher in Mayfield, Ky., after graduating from Murray State University in 1956. In 1960, he became director of pupil personnel in Trigg County schools in Cadiz, Ky., and later was assistant principal at Unity High School in Tolono and then principal at Moulton Elementary and Junior High School in Shelbyville, before entering higher education.

For more than 20 years, Scholes was an active member of the Illinois Association for Educational Communications and Technology (IAECT), earning its Outstanding and Distinguished Service awards in 1984 and 1988, being recognized for "continued and distinguished service in 1996.

In the community, Scholes has served on the Charleston School Board and as coordinator of the Charleston school district's film library until it closed in 1991. He currently serves on the Charleston City Council as commissioner of public health and safety.

Scholes said he won't seek re-election as commissioner when his term is up in April. He

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more time plans to travel with his wife, Shirley, and enjoy their grandchildren. He also hopes to devote to his woodworking hobby.